(b) and (c) No agency has been instituted by the Government to evaluate the funds of IRDP/JRY. However, evaluation studies are carried out to assess the overall impact of the programmes through reputed and independent institutions.

Proposal for Welfare Schemes for Rural Women and Children in Punjab

1028. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for more welfare schemes for rural women and children in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) This Ministry promotes the welfare of women and children in rural areas through Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Scheme. DWCRA scheme has been in operation in 9 districts of Punjab (Gurdaspur, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Patiala and Roper). Recently, a newly created Mansa District has been brought under DWCRA Scheme at the request of State Government Welfare of the rural women is also promoted through Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Provision for Sanitation Facilities

1029. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will tht PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some blocks and districts have been identified in the country for providing low-cost sanitation facilities in collaboration with UNICEF;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of towns/villages covered under the said programme in the country including Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is presently providing assistance for accelerating sanitation programme in 50 districts of 16 selected States including Rajasthan.

In addition, rural sanitation is also covered under Integrated Guineaworm Eradication projects in 15 districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The UNICEF assisted programmes approach at the State level is to strengthen infrastructure and capacity building to evolve suitable communication and social mobilisation, develop management information system etc.

At the district level, the programme aims at creation of awareness and demand generation in an intensified way. In these areas, UNICEF shares the cost of providing sanitary facilities, developing alternative delivery system and replicable models.

It is targetted to cover all the blocks of selected districts in a phased manner.

(c) Village identification is based on the the existing as well as potential demand. The total number of village covered in various districts is available with the concerned State and it is not monitored at the level of Central Government. Towns are not covered.

Introduction of Domestic Spinning Units for the Benefit of Rural Women

1030. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation have been received suggesting a scheme to introduce domestic spinning units to be run by pedals on power for the benefit of rural women, who are most unemployed in rural areas; and